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July 30, 1987

Mr. Chris Brown  
1102 - 258 Lisgar Street  
Ottawa, Ontario  
K2P 0C9

Dear Mr. Brown:

This is a response to your letter concerning implementation of the recommendations of the Ad Hoc Committee on Environmental Hypersensitivity Disorders.

On December 19, 1986, I announced the position of my Ministry with respect to environmental hypersensitivity which is to encourage members of the research community to submit proposals for studies on the nature of the disorder and effective treatment. A copy of the news release issued at the time of the announcement is enclosed.

Recommendations of the Ad Hoc Committee can be grouped into three general categories:

- 1) research to define, and to determine the prevalence of, environmental hypersensitivity disorders and effective diagnostic techniques and treatments;
- 2) health care and other services needed by those who are ill;
- 3) public and professional education with respect to environmental hypersensitivity.

Four of the recommendations concern research, twelve relate to tests and treatments that are either not now considered efficacious by the majority of medical authorities or can be accommodated within current Ontario Health Insurance Plan (OHIP) benefits.

The Medical Advisory Board reviews applications for disability benefits on the basis of medical findings. In those cases where the Medical Adjudicator determines that the medical evidence does not clearly indicate eligibility under the Family Benefits Act, the applicant has the right to appeal to the Social Assistance Review Board. This board also hears requests for special services and can overturn decisions made by the Director of Income Maintenance if it is apparent that sufficient evidence has been provided by the applicant. This process is not intended to cause hardship for the individual, but supports the credibility of the program and the legislation.

Thank you again for bringing your concerns to my attention.

Yours truly,



Valerie A. Gibbons  
Deputy Minister